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Serving the men and women of Fighter Country
Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

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56th FW commander leads enlisted call

By Tech. Sgt. Julie Briggs
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Luke airmen are doing a super job, said Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, to airmen gathered for an enlisted call Sept. 7 at Hangar 913.

"You're doing your job in grand style helping us train F-16 pilots," Sargeant said at the first of three mandatory enlisted calls he conducted that day.

He also told airmen they are doing a great job training mission-ready apprentices, almost a third of which remain at Luke with the other 70 percent assigned around the world. Sargeant also added that Luke airmen are doing a great job supporting Aerospace Expeditionary Forces.

"I have not gotten any comments that Luke folks aren't ready to support the AEF," he said. "You're ready to fill those positions when your foot hits the tarmac."

Sargeant said he appreciates the work the enlisted people do, especially recently working Saturdays to make up flying hours.

"Earlier this year, Congress told the (Air Force) Chief of Staff (Gen. Michael Ryan), that 'If you don't fly those hours, we'll take that money back,'" Sargeant said.

Typically, wings that did not fly the hours could "cash in" those hours and use the money for other programs, Sargeant explained. That was not the case for this fiscal year. If the Air Force didn't fly the hours it wouldn't get the money.

"At first we thought it would take us (Luke) four weeks," Sargeant said, "but we made up the hours in just two Saturdays."

Sargeant said experienced people contribute to that mission success. That is why it is important the Air Force keeps experienced people.

"I need you to pull out your leadership books," Sargeant said. "We need two kinds of people at Luke: great leaders and great followers. That's what it's going to take to ensure we have someone standing behind you, someone who's going to be there when you leave."

People will need to know their leaders care about them and their families, Sargeant added. If they are led well, they will stay in the Air Force. Keeping people also means ensuring they have the equipment they need to operate and their quality of life remains steady.

"As you probably know, I've changed the way we do budgeting here for the wing," Sargeant said. "I've asked the group commanders to order items by three categories: musts pays for those items we must have to do the mission; mission critical; and mission enhancements."

Sargeant said money for must-pay items will be bought first, followed by mission critical. Once these have been paid, the money will be pooled into one pot and used for mission-enhancement items and quality-of-life programs such as refurbishing dormitories.

Other issues Sargeant discussed included safety and the wing's harassment and discrimination policy.

"Work hard and play hard, but do it responsibly," he said. "Also, harassment and discrimination is a nonstarter for the wing."

He then discussed the importance of anthrax shots. Sargeant said they are necessary to keep people safe when sent



Airman 1st Class Julie Simmons

Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, provides Team Luke airmen with information Sept. 7 during one of three enlisted calls in Hangar 913.

to high-threat areas. He added that only one person has ever reported an adverse reaction to the shot, which was mild and only lasted a day.

Sargeant also listed upcoming events.

- ♦ The third Friday of every month, the youth center is open extra hours for people to enjoy themselves at the club.

- ♦ The Air Force Ball is Saturday. It covers what the Air Force has done since its infancy all the way to today. He encouraged people to attend since there wouldn't be another Luke ball until 2002.

- ♦ Sports Day is Sept. 28 and is sponsored by the 56th Services Squadron with the Peoria Chamber of Commerce

Military Affairs Committee and Credit Union West funding the picnic.

- ♦ Sept. 29 is a goal day. Sargeant said Team Luke could spend the day with their families because of what they had accomplished during the fiscal year.

- ♦ An Enlisted Spouse Appreciation Day is also planned to give leadership a chance to talk to spouses about the great things done at Luke.

- ♦ Election Day is Nov. 7.

"Exercise your responsibility," Sargeant said. "If you're an absentee voter for your state, get your paperwork filled out soon so you don't miss the opportunity."

'Lest we forget'

Team Luke conducts retreat ceremony for POWs, MIAs



By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Luke honors America's prisoners of war and those still listed as missing in action at a retreat ceremony today at 4:30 p.m. at the base flagpole.

The ceremony includes remarks by retired Brig. Gen. Ralph Browning, the longest-held Air Force POW in North Vietnam, and Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander.

A missing-man formation flyover is also planned with the lowering of the POW and MIA flag.

The ceremony brings to a close National POW and MIA Recognition Day and honors more than 2,000 American service members still listed as missing in action and countless airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines who were held as POWs.

"As we observe POW and MIA day, we must remember those who suffered in captivity in service to their country and those who are still missing in action," Sargeant said. "The best way to honor them is to always remember."

The ceremony also gives Luke people a chance to reflect on their responsibilities to honor the sacrifices of those who served before them.

Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355 Aug. 10, 1990, to recognize the POW and MIA flag as the nation's symbol of concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still missing and unaccounted for and to end the uncertainty for their families and the nation.

This year's POW and MIA poster is full of symbolism.

The serviceman in the background represents all

"As we observe POW and MIA day, we must remember those who suffered in captivity in service to their country and those who are still missing in action."

Col. Steve Sargeant
56th Fighter Wing commander

missing American's — America's sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters.

The jet aircraft on the poster are flying the traditional missing-man formation symbolizing their comrade is not with them.

The poster's somber black tones symbolize the darkness in the families' lives.

The telegram represents the link to the families of those missing — families who have sought answers for so long.

The military person in the foreground symbolizes the airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines who wear a military uniform today.

"Lest we forget" reminds all who love America that their loved ones will always be with them — they will always be remembered.

America's commitment to them is firm and the nation's obligation to them is steadfast, Sargeant said. They will never be forgotten for their service and their sacrifice.

When I was an airman ...



Airman 1st Class Julie Simmons
Retired former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Robert Gaylor speaks to members of Luke Airman Leadership Class 00-6 Tuesday about opportunity, aptitude and attitude. All three are needed to be successful in the Air Force and life, Gaylor said. He was here as guest speaker at the class' graduation where he spoke on the importance of leadership. For a list of graduates, see Page 19.

Luke Sports Day: Squadrons participate in spirit of competition

By Tech. Sgt. George F. Jozens
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Team Luke changes from work clothes to athletic attire Sept. 28 for a sports day and picnic. The day begins with comments from Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, at a 5-K fun run at 6:30 a.m. at the fitness center softball fields. "There is going to be a small gift for people who pre-register for the run," said Senior Airman Paul Stone, 56th Services Squadron sports director. "If people want to preregister, they can e-mail me by using the base global directory. We prefer people register early to avoid crowds registering the day of the run." The fitness center also provides water, sports drinks and fruit after the run. The picnic starts at 11:30 a.m. sponsored by the Peoria Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and Credit Union West, said Doug Hickins, 56th Services Squadron marketing and publicity. They provide free hamburgers, hot dogs, sodas and draft beer. Morning events include an aerobic marathon competition at 8 a.m. for individual competitors. Team events include six-person sand volleyball; hot shots — a three-point basketball competition; and a doubles horse shoe competition, Stone said. Individuals and teams repre-

Luke Sports Day scheduled events

5-K fun run	6:30 a.m.
Aerobic marathon	8 a.m.
Hose bowling	8 a.m.
Chiefs vs. Eagles softball game	10 a.m.
Picnic	11:30 a.m.
Luke vs. Peoria C of C	1 p.m.

sent their squadrons. The Luke Fire Department also sponsors a hose-bowling contest at 8 a.m. at the soccer field. "Hopefully we will get all of the squadrons to field a team in each of the events," said Vic Conyers, 56th SVS Fitness Center athletic director. Other morning activities are a Chiefs vs. Eagles softball game at 10 a.m. where Luke's top enlisted and officers compete in a one-hour or five-inning game. "I was told the chiefs vow to put the Eagles in a new place on the field," Conyers said. Col. Ed Kasl, 56th FW vice commander, said they would allow the Chiefs to hand them the trophy in the winner's circle again this year if they wanted. The all-stars from both the chief and eagle teams join to play the Peoria Chamber of Commerce team at 1 p.m. Afternoon events include an eight-person slalom where participants walk planks through a designated course; a one-mile, four-person co-ed relay race; an eight-person tug-of-war with at least two women on each team. Trophies are presented to winning squadrons at the end of the sports day. "With all the hard work this wing has accomplished over the last fiscal year, I encourage Luke Thunderbolts to use this opportunity to play hard," said Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander. "Let us enjoy this day responsibly."

Thunderbolt Instructor Pilot of the Week

Name: Maj. Richard "Chunks" Hurley, 310th Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations and instructor pilot
Hometown: LaPorte, Ind.
Years in service: 15
Family: Wife, Linda; son, Ben, 12; and daughters, Stephanie, 10 and Kaitlin, 6
Education: A bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering and a master's degree in information management systems
Previous assignments: Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; Bad Kreuznach, Germany; Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; Vance Air Force Base, Okla; and Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.
Goals: To be the solution to problems and not another problem to solve
Greatest feat: Balancing my family life with my military career and having a family that understands the collisions between the two
Commander's comments: "Rick is an outstanding officer and pilot," said Lt. Col. Paul Smith, 310th FS commander. "He is the sole architect of our fiscal year 2001 programmed flying training plan where the 310th (FS) is scheduled to graduate more than 375 student pilots from 116 different courses including night vision goggle and forward air control-airborne training."



Hurley

News Briefs

POW/MIA retreat ceremony

The 56th Fighter Wing has a retreat ceremony today at 4:30 p.m. at the base flagpole to honor former prisoners of war and those still missing in action. Retired Brig. Gen. Ralph Browning is the guest speaker.

Air Force Ball reminders

The Air Force Ball is Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Drive. A shuttle bus leaves from the enlisted club at 5:45 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and returns immediately following dinner at about 9 p.m. and at 10 and 11 p.m. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Pamella Thomas, 856-5840. For those driving from the base, travel east on Glendale Avenue, turn left onto 58th Avenue and then turn right onto Glenn Drive.

Wing commander's calls

Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, will conduct mandatory commanders calls on the following days:
♦ A civilian call will be Monday at 3 p.m. and Wednesday at 8 a.m. at the base theater.
♦ An officers call will be Sept. 22 at 4:30 p.m. at the officers club.

'Day of Caring' volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for the eighth annual United Way "Day of Caring" Sept. 23. Each year volunteers help nonprofit organizations with various projects. To volunteer or for more information, call Maj. Richard Phinney at 856-7076 or Teri Erikson at (602) 631-4843.

Dorm management office hours

The consolidated dormitory management office has extended its hours. It is open Mondays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Master Sgt. Paul Taylor at 856-8766 or 856-7841.

Hospital accreditation

The Joint Commission of Accreditation of Health care Organizations conducts an accreditation survey of the 56th Medical Group from Oct. 11 to 13. The survey evaluates the group's compliance with nationally established joint commission standards. Survey results determine whether the accreditation shall be awarded. Anyone who has pertinent information about quality-of-care issues and the safety environment, may request a public information interview with the commission's field representatives. Requests are acknowledged in writing or by telephone and an interview is set up. Written requests for an interview must be received by Oct. 3. Send requests to:

Division of Accreditation Operations
Accreditation Service Specialist
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
1 Renaissance Blvd.
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Luke Air Force Reserve vacancies

The Air Force Reserve 944th Fighter Wing at Luke has part-time vacancies in various career fields for personnel who are separating from the Air Force, eligible to re-enlist and within six months of their separation date. For more information, call Master Sgt. Pamela Pete at 856-7002.

"Tallyho" e-mail address change

The new global address to send e-mail to the "Tallyho" is Luke Tallyho. Those e-mailing from off-base locations can still use the old address of Tallyho@luke.af.mil.

Justice Report

The following nonjudicial actions occurred at Luke between Sept. 5 and 8.
♦ A master sergeant received an Article 15 and a suspended reduction to technical sergeant for failing to go to her duty station and disobeying a lawful order.
♦ A technical sergeant received an Article 15 and reduction to staff sergeant for the wrongful use of a controlled substance.



Robbin Crosswell

Airman 1st Class Jamie Gomez, 56th Security Forces Squadron, prepares to compete in the Defender Challenge combat handgun competition. The event took place Sept. 4 through 8 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Luke earns gold medal at Defender Challenge

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Luke Thunderbolts brought home the gold medal Monday in the Defender Warrior competition of Defender Challenge 2000, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

A five-man team from the 56th Security Forces Squadron took on more than a dozen AETC teams in six competitions including combat handgun, combat rifle, combat weapons, fitness and the Chief's and Sadler Cup challenges.

The Defender Warrior competition is a team tactics exercise with the objective of rescuing a U.S. dignitary from a potential combat area. The teams are subject to ambush and attacks by unfriendly forces and must get themselves and their dignitary to safety.

"Our team kept their eyes on the mission and maneuvered their way safely out of the 'kill area,'" said Maj. Tracey Meck, 56th SFS commander. "The other teams went into battle, staying to fight and clear buildings instead of focusing on the objective."

Competition officials noted that Luke had an all-airman team compet-

ing against teams made up primarily of NCOs, Meck added.

Luke's Defender Challenge team members are Senior Airmen John Young, Adam Green, Brian Farr and Andrew Sneden and Airman 1st Class Jamie Gomez.

"We trained long and hard to be ready," Sneden said. "We really came together as a team and kept each other motivated."

The team has been preparing for the competition since July. Each day they ran four miles, did calisthenics for an hour, lifted weights for another hour and attended classes to hone their map, compass, radio and global positioning satellite system skills.

Defender Challenge began in 1952 as a marksmanship competition and has grown into an Air Force wide event with teams from each base competing at the command, Air Force and international levels.

"The team worked very hard to prepare for the competition including physical conditioning, fire team tactics and marksmanship," Meck said. "I'm proud of their strong showing and how they represented Team Luke with professionalism, excellence and honor."

CFC: Campaign gains momentum

By Senior Airman Jennifer Dixon
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Combined Federal Campaign is in its second week and is gaining momentum.

"The campaign started slowly, but that's to be expected," said Maj. Rich Phinney, Luke CFC project officer. "We just started the campaign and know very few people have had an opportunity to donate. We expect next week to be our big donation week."

The campaign gives federal employees the chance to donate to more than 1,500 local, national and international charities, including four Luke organizations: Operation Warm Heart, family services, youth services and the American Red Cross.

Luke has been the pace setter for the Maricopa County campaign for a number of years, Phinney said. Luke's campaign starts and finishes before other agencies do, historically raising close to \$200,000 in donations.

As in past campaigns, Luke's goal is 100-percent contact, Phinney said. He would also like to see the percentage of Luke members donating to the CFC increase. Last year, 37 percent of Luke members donated.

Education on what CFC is all about is the key, Phinney said.

"People who are asked for donations should understand how their money will be spent," said Teri Erikson, United Way development associate. "Our goal is to educate people on the needs instead of just handing them a pledge card."

For those that want to make a charitable donation, but don't know where or how to donate, CFC is an easy way to give, Phinney said. People wanting to donate can do so by payroll deduction, check or cash or by volunteering their time.

For more CFC information and how to donate, contact unit key workers or group representatives listed below:

- ♦ Capt. Shai Hall, 56th Medical Group, 856-7533
- ♦ 2nd Lt. Mark Stevens, 56th Support Group, 856-4723
- ♦ 2nd Lt. Erin McClain, 56th Logistics Group, 856-9499
- ♦ Senior Master Sgt. Alvin Wright, 56th Operations Group, 856-6798
- ♦ Tech. Sgt. Richard Zaferis, 607th Air Control Squadron, 856-3306
- ♦ Lt. Col. Miguel Manjarres, 944th Reserve Fighter Wing, 856-5367
- ♦ Staff Sgt. Tami Lang, Detachment 1, 856-6522
- ♦ Tech. Sgt. Jennings Paramore, Detachment 12, 856-5684.

To the rescue ...



Senior Airman Elizabeth Krichbaum

A Glendale Community College Fire Academy student participates in a training exercise Saturday provided by Luke Fire Department members.

Wing Warrior

This column recognizes Team Luke members' contributions to wartime readiness in the tradition of 2nd Lt. Frank Luke.

Name: Staff Sgt. Travis McElroy, 56th Operations Group information manager
Hometown: Dayton, Ohio
Years in service: 10
Family: Wife, Chie; and son, Keanu, 11 months
Previous assignments: Kadena Air Base, Japan
Education: Bachelor's degree in business administration from Wayland Baptist University
Inspirations: My parents
Greatest feat: It's a toss-up — Either surviving two brutal football practices a day in high school or surviving 12 years of parochial school.
Famous last words: Egotism is the anesthetic that dulls the pain of stupidity.
Off duty: Ohio State football, reading, fishing and spending quality time with my wife and son.

Commander's comments: "Travis is the epitome of professionalism," said Lt. Col. Robin Rand, 56th Operations Group deputy commander. "He's the type of individual who will go the extra mile to ensure the job is done. Travis is a tremendous asset to the operations group and an excellent Team Luke member."



McElroy

Luke's Spirit

Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, uses this column to recognize Team Luke members' outstanding customer service.

Name: Air Force Reserve Capt. Tricia York, 56th Fighter Wing public affairs individual mobilization augmentee
Job responsibilities: Serves as community relations advisor, special projects officer and a spokesperson to news media
Hometown: Tampa, Fla.
Years in service: 10
Previous assignments: Luke; Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany
Education: Bachelor's degree in speech communication and a master's in human resource development
Inspirations: My wonderful and loving parents
Famous last words: Dream as if you'll live forever and live as if you'll die tomorrow.
Off duty: Traveling, working out, yoga, scuba diving, camping and hiking.

Commander's comments: "Captain York is an outstanding IMA," Sargeant said. "Not only did she spend her time putting the recent civic leader tour together, she also helped the team bond professionally and socially. The civic leaders just had to sit and listen. Her attention to detail was flawless and we got the most out of the tour through her efforts."



York

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4 Luke airmen become officers

By Kristen M. Butler
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Three Luke NCOs and a senior airman make the transition from enlisted service to the officer corps after being selected Sept. 11 to attend Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The 12-week OTS course mentally and physically prepares trainees for the challenges and responsibilities today's Air Force leaders face.

With nearly 35 combined years in the Air Force, Tech. Sgts. Mark Cooke, 56th Transportation Squadron, and Herman Gaskins, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron; Staff Sgt. Dennis Abramowicz; and Senior Airman Timothy Short take their enlisted experience with them and said they plan to make good officers because of that vast knowledge.

Cooke has been in the Air Force almost 13 years and serves as a 56th TRNS cargo movements chief. He completed his bachelor's degree in computer science from Park University by attending school during off-duty hours. After OTS, Cooke will be an Air Force communications and information officer.

"Being an Air Force officer gives me

the opportunity to practice the full spectrum of my abilities in leadership and computer science," Cooke said. "Being an officer will also give me the chance to help shape the Air Force as we become increasingly dependent on computers to accomplish the mission."

Gaskins also finished his degree by attending night classes. He earned a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1997 and is just a couple of classes shy of his master's degree, also from Embry-Riddle.

Gaskins was actually on terminal leave when he found out he had been selected for OTS.

"I was very excited when I found out I was selected," Gaskins said. "(Being an Air Force officer) is really what I wanted to do after spending 11 years in the Air Force — now I'll have the opportunity to finish the career I started."

Abramowicz began his Air



Gaskins



Short



Abramowicz

Force career eight years ago as a jet-engine craftsman. He also attended college courses after hours, but finished the last nine months of his bachelor's degree in business administration from Wayland Baptist University via the Bootstrap program. Upon OTS graduation, Abramowicz said he looks forward to serving as an Air Force finance officer.

"I want to lead our younger troops into the 21st century," he said. "I want to give back to the Air Force what my leaders have given to me."

Short has been in the Air Force for only two years, but joined with a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Wayne State College, Neb. At Luke he serves as an assistant dedicated crew chief. Although he hopes one day to be an Air Force pilot, he will serve as a services officer after completing OTS.

"As I become an officer, my enlisted experience will pay off," Short said. "I will be able to lead, but I will also know when it's time to follow."

Although the four Team Luke members were recently notified of OTS selection, their actual attendance dates have yet to be set. During the OTS course, participants will be notified of base assignments.

Former POWs may be eligible for Purple Heart

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Former American prisoners of war may be eligible to receive the Purple Heart medal due to a little-publicized four-year-old change in award rules.

President Kennedy signed an executive order April 25, 1962. Until then, service members could receive the medal only during a formally declared state of war.

The 1962 order didn't specifically mention POWs or eligibility because of injuries suffered in captivity. An Army policy change Sept. 27, 1962, allowed Purple Heart awards to members who might become POWs and injured by captors.

The changes weren't retroactive. No former POWs who were injured in captivity before April 25, 1962, were eligible until Congress passed legislation as part of the 1996 National Defense Authorization Act.

Injuries must be inflicted by captors. Those received while on work detail probably don't qualify — but if in doubt, apply. Supporting documentation is required and may include copies of repatriation medical exams or a witness statement from a cellmate.

To apply use Standard Form 180, available at Department of VA service and medical centers; or online. The form includes instructions and mailing addresses.

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AF officials announce new weapons system

By Tech. Sgt. Stefan Alford
Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2000 Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFPN) — The Air Force officially has a new weapons system. After three years of experimentation, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan announced the aerospace operations center is now an integral part of how the service will prepare for and conduct future expeditionary operations.

“I declare the AOC as an official weapons system today,” Ryan said after a visit Sept. 8 to view the aerospace operations center during Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2000.

JEFX, a two-week event that runs through today, assesses Air Force expeditionary operations through the use of new technology and capabilities in a simulated warfighting environment that combines live-fly forces, models, simulations and technology insertion at 11 sites across the United States to explore and evaluate new processes.

The aerospace operations center at Hurlburt is the hub for all of the information flow involved in the experiment. It simulates a forward command and control structure that plans and directs the air campaign using intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and initiatives such as agile combat support and time-critical targeting.

During a real-world operation, the AOC will be the “eyes, ears, hands and legs of the commander,” Ryan said.

“In each of our theaters, the ability of the air commander to execute the missions he has depends on the capability to have an aerospace operations center that

(can be tailored) ... for the mission he needs to do,” the chief of staff explained.

As an integral component of the aerospace power equation, Ryan said the next step in the process is to identify the specialty codes, training pipeline, career path and currency requirements associated with the AOC as a weapons system.

“We need a baselining of the capabilities in that weapons system, just as we do in our capabilities in something like an F-16,” Ryan said. “(In the F-16) we have a crew chief that knows how to maintain it and we have pilots that know how to fly it. We have to have the same concept for our aerospace operations centers.

“We have to have those who know how to rapidly set it up and we must have operators who are very familiar with it,” Ryan said.

That’s where experimentation such as JEFX comes in. This year’s experiment is the third in a series since 1998 designed to meet the evolving needs of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force of the 21st century and to implement Joint Vision 2020.

“Air Force experimentation provides both near and long-term benefits for our warfighters,” said Col. Kevin Dunleavy, JEFX 2000 director. “It provides a means to assess new technologies and operational concepts, allows warfighter involvement early in the acquisition process and produces better informed investment decisions.”

Air Force planners here view experimentation as a discovery process. They are quick to differentiate it from the traditional military exercise, saying the service experiments to learn and exercises to train. In other words, military exercises hone established procedures to do



Senior Airman Lee Rogers
Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan receives a briefing in the aerospace operations center at Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2000 during a visit to Hurlburt Field, Fla.

them more efficiently, while experiments assess those procedures and new ideas that may become procedures.

Experimentation for the Air Force has always been important, Ryan said.

“We always have to be on the cutting edge because it’s the leading technology that we leverage for our aerospace capabilities,” Ryan said. “In this case (with the AOC), what we’re looking at is the

command and control area to make sure that we can move information around and do it in an efficient and effective way. Inviting commercial people to come in (at JEFX) and show us what they have, allows us to interface with them and tell them what we need.

“It allows our bright, young people to be able to do some real creative things,” he added.

DOD schools

European bases establish school boards, give parents voice as part of test program

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFPN) — Six U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases will establish school boards under a test program that will give parents an alternative role to voice their concerns about their childrens’ education in the Defense Department schools.

USAFE received DOD approval Sept. 1 to create the boards.

School boards will give power of the vote to parents, who will elect their own school board members, separate from the school advisory committees.

School principals, the district superintendent and the

installation commander will serve on the boards as non-voting participants. The school boards can make recommendations to installation commanders, district superintendents and principals on education issues ranging from support services and school meal programs to transportation and student standards of discipline.

“School boards present a new avenue for parents to improve the local schools,” said Dr. Susan Kelly, of the DOD Dependent School liaison office at USAFE headquarters. “They can impact the decisions of school administrators and installation leadership that will effect students across the installation. Parents can send

strong messages to the top military and DODDS leadership.”

School boards will bring parents, principals, installation commanders and superintendents together for discussions and resolutions to parent concerns, she added.

The test bases are: Royal Air Force Alconbury, England; Aviano Air Base, Italy; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; RAF Lakenheath, England; Spangdahlem Air Base; Germany; and Ramstein.

Each test base has the school board operating guidelines. Communities have until Oct. 15 to elect school board members. *(Courtesy of USAFE News Service)*

New program offers tax breaks

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Federal employees who have Federal Employee Health Benefits premiums withheld from their pay will see more money in their paychecks when a new premium conversion program goes into effect in October.

Premium conversion uses federal tax rules to let employees pay their share of health insurance premiums from their before-tax income, thereby reducing their taxes.

The plan is similar to the private sector, which has allowed employees to deduct health insurance premiums from taxable incomes for many years.

“Since the new premium conversion lowers the employee’s taxable income, federal employees will save money, not only on federal income tax, but Social Security and Medicare as well,” said Cynthia Birge Civilian Personnel Operations at Air Force Personnel Center benefits services chief. “In most cases they will also save on state and local income tax.

“We feel most of the employees serviced under PAL-ACE Compass will want to participate in premium conversion,” Birge said. “However, it is remotely possible some individuals might not want the tax savings for two potential reasons, flexibility and Social Security.”

Currently, employees have the flexibility to change from self and family to self only, or cancel their FEHB at any time.

Under premium conversion, employees may make these changes only during the FEHB open season or upon a qualifying event, for example., marriage, birth of a child, change in a spouse’s employment, loss of coverage because of health plan, quitting or becoming insolvent, etc.

While premium conversion reduces the amount of

taxable income, it may also slightly reduce the base on which Social Security benefits are calculated.

There may be rare situations where it may be advantageous to pay full social security taxes rather than lower Social Security taxes under premium conversion. For example, an employee covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System who pays no income tax.

These rare cases do not involve employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System, or CSRS, offset plan.

For most individuals, the benefit of having more take-home pay will outweigh the slightly lower Social Security benefit.

Participation in premium conversion is automatic for employees participating in the FEHB program.

If the employee wants to participate, they do nothing. Employees who do not want to participate in the program must waive participation by submitting a premium conversion waiver.

“The decision to participate in or waive premium conversion is a personal one and must be made on an individual basis,” Birge said. “In the next two weeks we will be sending out a letter to each employee serviced by BEST containing detailed information on premium conversion to assist them with their decision.”

Employees located at bases not serviced by BEST with questions regarding premium conversion, should contact their servicing civilian personnel flight.

Additional information on premium conversion can be found on the Office of Personnel Management Web site at www.opm.gov/insure/health/pretaxfehb/index.htm. *(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)*

AAFES changes uniform prices

DALLAS (AFPN) — Each year the Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia re-evaluates issue uniform prices based on costs of material, labor, distribution and warehousing.

These adjustments, whether up or down, must be taken in October ... the beginning of the government fiscal year.

Army Air Force Exchange Service manages all Army and Air Force-owned Military Clothing Sales Stores and is required to obtain “issue” military clothing exclusively from the DSCP.

AAFES sells issue military clothing at cost, with no mark-up.

In addition to the basic issue items, AAFES offers “optional” items procured from commercial sources and sold at normal mark-up, with earnings benefiting Air Force Services’ programs, as well as the Army’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

This month, military members and their families will be able to use the new all-services Military Star card to purchase uniform items and any other items sold in more than 9,000 exchange locations around the world.

AAFES customers are reminded to plan ahead and purchase items in advance to avoid October price adjustments. People at a location that do not carry issue items, should use the AAFES Web site at www.aafes.com to make thier issue uniform purchases. *(Courtesy of AAFES Public Affairs)*

Team Luke blood drive begins Monday

Monday

- 309th Fighter Squadron break room from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. The point of contact is Tech. Sgt. Jim Morrison at 856-5916.
- 63rd Fighter Squadron break room from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The POC is Senior Master Sgt. Candy Williams at 856-6063.
- 56th Support Center third-floor atrium from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The POC is Airman 1st Class Kathryn Jolly at 856-7854 or Liz Garey at 856-7778.

Tuesday

- 62nd Fighter Squadron in the United Blood Services bus from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The POC is Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Heider at 856-4445.
- 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron in the UBS bus from 2 to 4:30 p.m. The POC is Staff Sgt.

Russell Anderson at 856-6485.

Wednesday

- Flightline Bldg. 913 in the UBS bus from 1 to 8 p.m. The POCs are Staff Sgt. David Schoen at 856-3375 or Tech. Sgt. Melvin Irizarry at 856-7793.
- Luke Hospital in the UBS bus from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The POC is Staff Sgt. Toya Loring at 856-3123.
- Luke Community Chapel activity room from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The POCs are 1st Lt. Amy Pekala at 856-6932 or 1st Lt. Charity Kauffman at 856-6616.

Thursday

- Luke Community Chapel activity room from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The POCs are Pekala at 856-6932 or Kauffman at 856-6616.

Sept. 22

- Community Chapel from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The POCs are Pekala at 856-6932 or Kauffman at 856-6616.
- 607th Air Control Squadron in the UBS bus from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The POC is Airman 1st Class Joshua Snoderly at 856-7339.
- 56th Component Repair Squadron from noon to 6 p.m. at their orderly room's conference room. The POC is Senior Airman Melissa Odom at 856-6738.

Sept. 23

- Commissary and base exchange from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the UBS bus. The POCs are Kauffman at 856-6616 or Pekala at 856-6932.

Sept. 24

- Luke Community Chapel activity room from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 856-6211.

U.S. Air Force celebrates 53rd anniversary

By Tech. Sgt. Kelly Morgan

43rd Airlift Wing History Office

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. (AFPN) — After 40 years of labor pains, the birth certificate of the Air Force was signed Sept. 18, 1947.

The National Security Act of 1947 provided for the Air Force to be established as an autonomous arm of the new Department of Defense. On the same date as its birth, W. Stuart Symington became secretary of the Department of the Air Force. Eight days later, Sept. 26, Gen. Carl Spaatz became the Air Force's first chief of staff.

The creation of the Air Force did not occur overnight. Aug. 1, 1907, the Army established the Aeronautical Division of the Army Signal Corps. The Aeronautical Division did not receive congressional funding specifically for aeronautics until four years later. In those four years, maintenance funds for the division came from money earmarked for military telephone and telegraph maintenance.

After the United States entered World War I in April, 1917, it became evident that the Signal Corps was not the proper organization for America's fledgling combat air forces. The War Department created the Army Air Service May 24, 1918. The Air Service troop strength during the nine months of combat reached 197,338 and boasted more than 185

aero squadrons and numerous support squadrons.

During the demobilization that followed World War I, the Air Service became a combatant arm of the Army with a major general serving as the chief of the service. Troop strength declined to less than 10,000 airmen. Most of the time no more than 12 aero squadrons existed.

In 1926, the Air Service was renamed the Air Corps but remained a combatant branch of the Army. Squadrons were assigned to local ground corps commanders.

March 1, 1935, the General Headquarters of the Air Force became operational at Langley Field, Va. The GHAF assumed control over tactical squadrons, while the chief of the Air Corps remained responsible for doctrine, training, supply and procurement.

At that time, U.S. air forces consisted of less than 15,000 airmen and 45 squadrons. Only three wings existed: Langley Field, Va; Barksdale Field, La.; and March Field, Calif. The airmen of Pope Field, N.C., were in the 2nd Balloon Squadron, and reported to the Camp Bragg, N.C., commander.

When the German Luftwaffe demonstrated the advantages of air power during the 1938 invasion of Czechoslovakia, the War Department began rapid expansion of the Air Corps. The Army Air Corps swelled from 24,000 men and 2,400 aircraft in 1939 to 2,253,000 men and 63,715 aircraft in 1945.



The oncoming confrontation with the Axis powers also created a blitz of reorganization in the War Department. Gen. George Marshall became commander of both the Air Corps and GHAF.

As the force grew, new echelons of command and structure were created. In 1942, the War Department created three divisions of the Army: Army Ground Forces, Army Service Forces and the Army Air Force.

The Army Air Corps comprised a major military organization at the end of World War II. A little more than two years later, the U.S. Air Force received its autonomy from the Army.

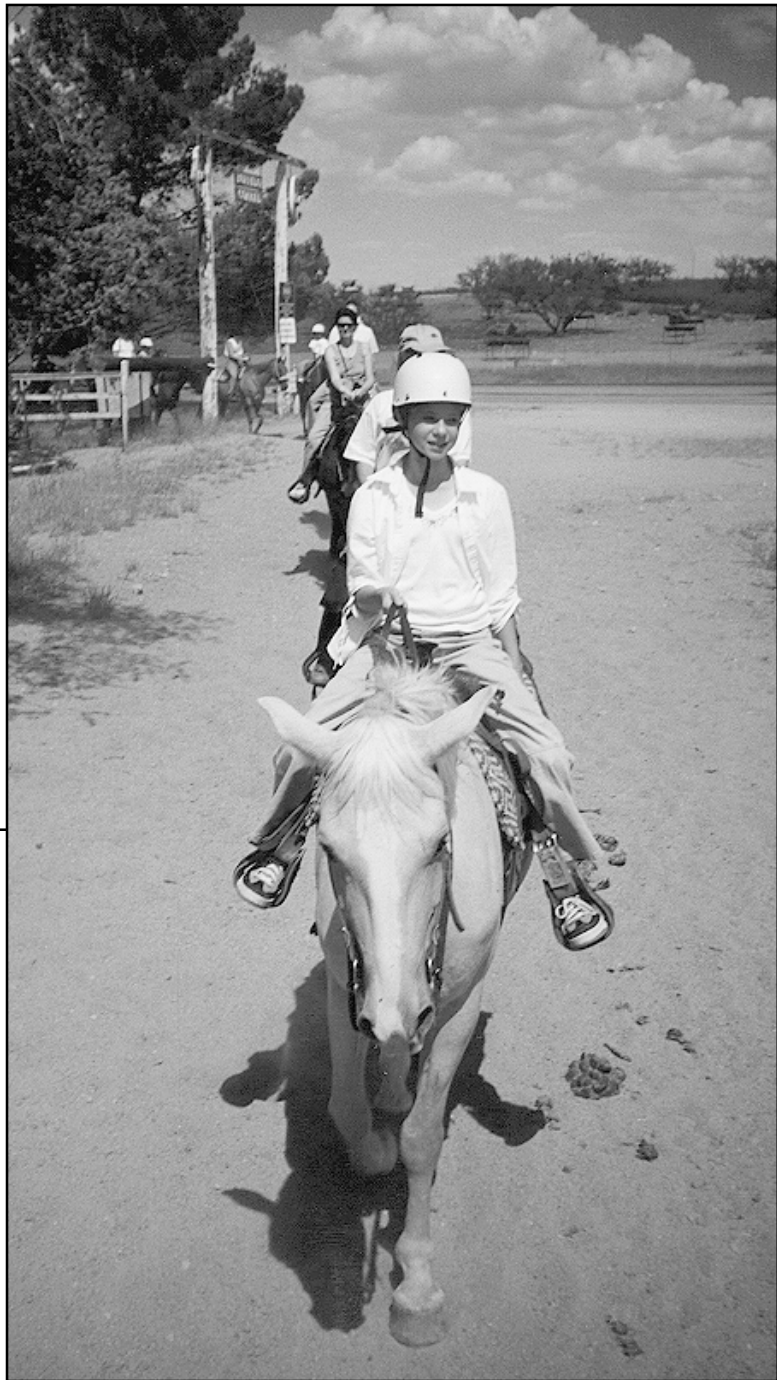
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One of the Buffalo Coral horses sizes up Luke riders.



Above and below, Luke members head out of Fort Huachuca's Buffalo Corral and ride the open range.



Horsin' around

Outdoor recreation gives adventurers glimpse at history

Photos and story by
Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing public Affairs

Escaping the heat, smog, traffic and urban sprawl of the Phoenix Valley, the long line of riders sat high in the saddle and looked out across miles of pristine, rolling Arizona landscape as they rode the open trail.

Taking advantage of the 56th Services Squadron outdoor recreation adventure program, about 30 Luke members spent Saturday and Sunday horseback riding and camping at Fort Huachuca's Buffalo Corral and walking the streets of Arizona's historic City of Tombstone, the site of the legendary shootout at the O.K. Corral.

The group left Luke's outdoor recreation center Saturday morning for Fort Huachuca. There they set up camp and then saddled up for a ride through miles of open trails along the Chiricahua Apache routes just like Army Gen. Stephen Kearny and his



Tombstone, Ariz., residents re-enact the infamous gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

men did at the opening of the American Southwest in 1846.

The riders returned to the Buffalo Corral after the three-hour ride and, some now walking like authentic cowboys, back at camp enjoyed an authentic cowboy barbecue, a relaxing sunset and an evening of light-hearted conversation.

After a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday morning, the group broke camp, headed to Tombstone and stepped back in history again, this time to 1881. Some ate lunch at the famous Big Nose Kate's Saloon or the Longhorn Café before moseying over to the O.K. Corral for a re-enactment of the bloody high noon

battle between the Earps and Clantons.

"I went to the outdoor recreation center to rent a jet ski and found out about the horseback riding trip," said Lt. Col. Neal Carbaugh, 309th Fighter Squadron instructor pilot. "This is the first such trip for my family and it was a great chance to get away and have some fun, especially for our children."

Before heading back to Luke and the 21st century, the rag-tag bunch donned authentic 1800s clothing and posed for a photo dressed as cowboys, cowgirls, gamblers, gun fighters, law men, Union and Confederate soldiers, saloon girls, a preacher and marshal.

"We try to make these trips a fun and learning experience for all Luke members including our single folks and families," said Neal Washburn, outdoor recreation coordinator. "It's a chance for people to have an affordable adventure without all the expense and work involved. All they have to do is show up ready to have some fun."

For more information on outdoor recreation adventures, call Washburn at 856-9334 or 856-6267.

Information,
Tickets and
Tours

Information, Tickets and Tours is in the community center. Dillard's Box Office and Ticketmaster are open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and closed Sunday. Tickets for a variety of community events are available. For more information, call 856-6000.

Tours

Grand Canyon: Sunday, 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person.
Riverside Casino, Laughlin, Nev.: Sept. 24 and Oct. 8 and 22. Bus departs at 6 a.m. each day and returns at 10 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person.

Luke Movies

Movies begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Cost for children 11 and under is \$1.25; adults pay \$2.50.



Today,
Saturday at 6 p.m.

"The Klumps" (PG-13)
Stars Eddie Murphy and Janet Jackson. Dr. Sherman Klump attempts to woo a new university professor and separate himself from his alter-ego, Buddy.



Saturday at 9 p.m.,
Sunday

"Scary Movie" (R)
Stars Anna Faris, Marlon Waynes, Shawn Waynes, Shannon Elizabeth and Jon Abrahams.
Keenen Ivory Wayans directs this comedy spoof of slasher films including "Halloween," "Friday the 13th," "Scream," "I Know What You Did Last Summer," "The Blair Witch Project," "the Sixth Sense" and "The Matrix." Wayans's return to comedies contains a seemingly endless onslaught of visual jokes.



Sept. 22

"Space Cowboys" (PG-13)
Stars Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner, Donald Sutherland and Marcia Gay Harden.
Clint Eastwood plays a 60-year-old astronaut who is sent on a desperate mission to repair a broken satellite that threatens to cause a disaster on earth if it falls from outerspace. The only catch is he insists three of his old friends who were not originally selected in the astronaut training program, accompany him as his crew.

Chapel News

Worship schedule

The following is Luke’s Protestant and Catholic worship schedule:

- Protestant worship
- ♦ Holy Communion is Sunday at 8 a.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
 - ♦ Gospel service is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapel on the Mall.
 - ♦ Morning worship service is Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
 - ♦ Evening praise service is Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.

- Catholic worship
- ♦ Saturday Mass is at 5 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
 - ♦ Sunday Mass is at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
 - ♦ Weekday Mass is at noon at the Luke Community Chapel.

Muslim congregational prayers
Muslims interested in Friday congregational prayers, should call the chapel for information.

Jewish High Holy Days
Jewish High Holy Days begin Sept. 23. For a list of services in the area, call the chapel.

Religious education

- ♦ Protestant Sunday school, for all ages, is 9:30 a.m. in Bldg. 1150.
- ♦ Catholic CCD is Sunday at 11 a.m. in Bldg. 1150.

For more information on these or other programs, call the chapel at 856-6211.

Around Base

ESC meets

The Luke Air Force Base Enlisted Spouses Club meets Monday at 7 p.m. in the Desert Star Enlisted Club. For more information, call Christine Fetcho at (623) 536-3144 or Linda Jenkins at (623) 535-9034.

American Red Cross classes

- The American Red Cross offers the following classes:
- ♦ An adult, infant and child cardiopulmonary and first aid class is Oct. 7 at 8:30 a.m. in Bldg. 1150, Room 1064. Enrollment is open to all military identification cardholders, their family members and Luke civilian employees. The cost is \$22 per person. Registration and pre-payment is required.
 - ♦ An American Red Cross new volunteer orientation is Sept. 28 at 10 a.m. in Bldg. 1150, Room 1064. There are many volunteer positions open with days and hours to fit everyone’s schedule.
 - ♦ A free introduction to disaster class is Oct. 14 at 9 a.m. in Bldg. 1150, Room 1064. The class provides fundamental information about disasters, community response and the role of Red Cross Disaster Services. A damage assessment class follows at 1 p.m. For more information, call 856-7823.

Wrestling Night

Wrestling Night is Sept. 24 at 4:30 p.m. in the Desert Star Enlisted Club. The pay-per-view event features the World Wrestling Federation’s “Unforgiven” program. For more information, call the club at 856-7136.

Air Force birthday luncheon

An Air Force 53rd birthday luncheon is Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ray V. Hensman Dining Facility and features grilled top sirloin, orange glazed chicken and herb-baked lemon fish.

Cholesterol display

A display about cholesterol may be viewed today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the base exchange. Handouts and brochures on how to lower cholesterol levels are also available.

Youth center extends hours

- The 56th Services Squadron youth programs flight offers extended hours the third Friday of each month to support the “Third Friday” program at the enlisted and officers clubs.
- The youth center extends its hours today from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person.
- Children 6 to 12 years can visit with friends, listen to music, do arts and crafts, watch a movie or play volleyball or basketball.
- For more information, call 856-6225 or 856-7470.

Educators support group meets

An organizational meeting for the Luke Home Educators Support Group is Saturday at 9 a.m. in the Luke Community Chapel Annex. Discussions on Arizona home schooling laws and resources available on base and in the community are planned. For more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Eric Fenton at 856-6211.

Messiah practice

- Practice for the annual production of Handel’s Messiah begins Sept. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- Rehearsals are each Sunday through November with performances Dec. 2 and 3.
- All singers are welcome; no audition is necessary. For more information, call Kaydie Hevin-Mason at (623) 535-7244.

Latin music night

Luke’s Hispanic Heritage Council has Latin music night Saturday and Sept. 23 and 30 at 9 p.m. at the desert Star Enlisted Club.

Mongolian barbecue

There is a Mongolian barbecue today from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at the Ray V. Hensman Dining Facility.

AFA luncheon meeting

The Frank Luke chapter of the Air Force Association meets today at 11:30 a.m. at the Desert Star Enlisted Club. There is a buffet lunch and discussion about current Air Force operations. For more information, call Harry Bailey at (623) 846-7483.

Club hosts ‘Parents’ Relief Night’

The Desert Star Enlisted Club hosts a “Parents’ Relief Night” Wednesday from 5 to 9 p.m. The club staff entertains the children with movies, games, popcorn and a children’s menu while parents enjoy a dinner of New York strip, rib eye steaks or sherried chicken for only \$14.50

per couple. For reservations, call 856-7136.

Housing seminar

There is a housing seminar Sept. 27 at 11:30 a.m. at Bldg. 1150, Room 1046. The seminar includes information on Veterans Administration and conventional home loans. For more information, call Irene Bateman at 856-3008.

TROA meeting

The Retired Officer’s Association, Superstition Mountain Chapter, has a meeting Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Mesa Convention Center. the featured speaker is retired Col. Buzz Buze from TROA, Washington, D.C., to discuss legislation effecting military personnel and how to use military experience in the civilian job market. For more information, call retired Brig. Gen. Charles Buel at (480) 816-6310.

Salutes

Three win local awards

Three Luke women won awards Aug. 22 in a combined awards ceremony by the Phoenix Federal Executive Association, Arizona Council of Hispanic Managers and the Federal Women’s Program Interagency Council. Team Luke members won the following awards: ♦ Maj. Sharon Simmons, 56th Medical Operations Squadron, received the award in the outstanding supervisor or manager category. ♦ Senior Airman Latasha America, 308th Fighter Squadron, is the outstanding administrative employee. ♦ Mary Taylor, 56th Medical Group, won the outstanding secretarial or clerical employee award.

National Pollution Prevention Week

Individuals must do their part to fight pollution

By Olga Purpura-Clark
AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — National Pollution Prevention Week kicks off Monday, highlighting activities across America to spur people to fight pollution.

More than ever, efforts by individuals are needed to win this battle, pollution prevention experts said.

Many people actively participate in base and individual community environmental protection programs, but often forget one important facet — household products contribute to hazardous waste. People tend to identify hazardous waste with industrial facilities, but not in the home.

Paints, pesticides, motor oils, cleansers, solvents and batteries are some examples. Statistics indicate there are more chemicals in the home today than a chemical laboratory 100 years ago. Most are improperly discarded. According to environmental experts, more than 60 percent of do-it-yourselfers dispose of used automotive oil in sewers, on the ground or in household trash. One oil change from one car engine poured into a storm drain can create an eight-acre slick.

Take it a step further. Picture a city of 50,000 people with every household dumping five gallons of hazardous material in the garbage per year. This 250,000 gallons of waste would convert into more than 41 tons of hazardous waste, according to an

Ohio State University study.

The preferred solution — to purchase nontoxic alternatives — is not always realistic. Sometimes hazardous products are necessary for good performance.

Some products provide safe disposal information, but others offer only vague instructions or none at all. Experts suggest reading the warning information on the container to help identify hazardous contents. Contact the manufacturer for specific disposal instructions or check with the environmental flight for a list of hazardous waste collection programs in the area.

Ohio State University recommends these steps for safe disposal of household hazardous waste:

- ◆ Never burn or dump any hazardous waste on the ground.
- ◆ Do not pour any hazardous material down the sink unless the label states it can be safely disposed into the sewer system.
- ◆ Avoid burying containers or leftover chemicals.
- ◆ Do not mix hazardous wastes and do not collect containers and chemicals to dispose of them at one time.
- ◆ Solidify liquid wastes by using an absorbent material (sawdust, kitty litter, paper towels, rags) to soak up a liquid hazardous material. Do not solidify more than one chemical at a time. Use gloves, sweep or dispose of the material into a plastic bag, and then dispose of it with other household garbage. This same process can be used with any “empty” container other



Tech. Sgt. Julie Briggs
Richard Eaton, auto hobby shop mechanic, properly disposes of used motor oil.

than an aerosol container.

- ◆ With aerosol cans, turn the container upside down and depress the spray button, with nozzle facing paper towels, rags or other absorbent surface. When the spray has lost pressure, wrap the can in several layers of newspaper and dispose with household refuse.
- ◆ Solidify latex paint by exposing the paint to air. When dried, dispose of the paint and container with household refuse. Wrap empty containers in several layers of newspaper before disposal. This prevents environmental contamination and reactive potential.
- ◆ Antifreeze can be flushed down the toilet if the house is connected to a

sewer system. Avoid drain disposal of any type of chemical product in septic tanks.

- ◆ Pesticides, herbicides, oil paints, paint cleaners, and oil and transmission fluids should never be flushed into a water system or poured on the ground or put into household refuse. Turn in these items to a hazardous waste collection system.
- ◆ Automobile batteries should also be turned in to a hazardous waste collection system.

The 13th century adage, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” still rings true. Make a difference, help protect today’s environment for a safe and healthy tomorrow.

Leadership school graduates 24 airmen

Two dozen senior airmen graduated Tuesday from the Luke Airman Leadership School Class 00-6. Senior Airman Walter Contreras, 56th Supply Squadron, won the John Levitow Award. He also won the leadership award.

Senior Airman Joshua Hurt, 56th Component Repair Squadron, won the distinguished graduate award and the academic achievement award.

The other graduates were:

- ♦ David Alexander, 21st Fighter Squadron
- ♦ James Berry, 56th Services Squadron

- ♦ Angelita Bohn, 56th SVS
- ♦ Robert Carden, 309th Fighter Squadron
- ♦ Ambrosio Collado, 56th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
- ♦ Henry Davis, 61st Fighter Squadron
- ♦ Thomas DeLong, 310th Fighter Squadron
- ♦ Sean Donde, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron
- ♦ Dennis Germain, 308th Fighter Squadron
- ♦ Jennifer Griffiths, 56th SVS
- ♦ Dave Edades, 61st FS

- ♦ Nolan Hawkins, 56th Transportation Squadron
- ♦ George Heathcoe, 56th CRS
- ♦ Angela Irving, 56th Dental Squadron
- ♦ Justin Johnson, 62nd Fighter Squadron
- ♦ Tinita Jones, 62nd FS
- ♦ Thomas Lagg, 310th FS
- ♦ Matthew Makela, 308th FS
- ♦ David Randall, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron
- ♦ James Rippy, 56th EMS
- ♦ Brian Smith, 56th EMS
- ♦ Robert Smith, 63rd Fighter Squadron

Eighteen Team Luke sergeants graduate from NCO Academy

Eighteen Team Luke NCOs graduated Sept. 7 from the Air Force NCO Academy, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Master Sgt. Gisele Mullen, 308th Fighter Squadron, won the John Levitow Award. Tech. Sgt. Mark Ridder, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, is a distinguished graduate.

Other graduates were technical sergeants:

- ♦ Randall Boldt, 56th Comptrollers Squadron
- ♦ Craig Dunlap, 56th Supply Squadron
- ♦ Randall Gabrielson, Det. 12, 372nd Training Squadron
- ♦ Melvin Koenig, 21st Fighter Squadron

- ♦ Tech. Sgt. Leland Lopez, 56th EMS
- ♦ James O’Conner, 309th Fighter Squadron
- ♦ Robert O’Connor, 309th FS
- ♦ Christopher Osterman, 63rd FS
- ♦ Byron Pate, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron
- ♦ Kirk Moyer, 62nd Fighter Squadron

- ♦ Thomas Nix, 56th CES
- ♦ Michael Salvador, Det. 12, 372nd Training Squadron
- ♦ Karen Sanders, 56th Training Squadron
- ♦ Craig Scott, 56th SUP
- ♦ Mark Weber, 56th Services Squadron
- ♦ Tanya Yahn, 56th Medical Support Squadron

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Varsity soccer

Luke Falcons battle for winning record in local league

By Senior Airman J. Propst
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Luke Falcons varsity indoor soccer blue team tied another game, this time against Zao during a late game Monday at the Phoenix Soccer Center.

Luke had several new players on the field, but Zao's organized offense couldn't get through the Falcons defense. Luke's keeper, who they picked up moments before the game, kept Zao from putting anything in the back of the net. Like Zao's offense, Luke's offense couldn't get anywhere.

Even though Zao was falling back fast, Luke's Drew Hall got the ball rolling when he put the ball past a defender and the Zao keeper into the back of the goal.

Drew tried to score again minutes later, but the ball went wide. Dillon Lammie was ready and picked up the rebound for Luke's second goal.

Luke had a breakaway moments later, but Zao's speed prevented them from doing anything with it. Luke defense also had trouble competing with Zao's offensive speed. Zao would use that speed to score on a two-on-one breakaway.

Luke came back with several shots on goal, though none could make it past Zao's defense. Zao prevented Luke from passing and making plays. Zao,

on the other hand, was putting shot after shot on goal, but Luke's keeper made block after block.

Luke would score once more before the half ended. Mike Doane shot a direct kick, which was blocked. True to form, Hall was there to put it in.

Zao wouldn't allow themselves to fall very far behind. They proved it when they picked up a rebound off of a blocked shot. This put Luke up by one with a score of 3-2 going into the half.

Keeping up with what seemed like an endless bench, Zao wore down the Falcons. Zao took advantage by constantly substituting fresh players. It paid off two minutes into the half when they tied the game at three with a shot off the post.

Minutes later Zao did it again. This time Luke was just unable to clear the ball. Zao put four players in front of the Falcons goal, one of whom tapped it in.

Luke began fighting back for the lead. They tied the game when Hall crossed the ball to Lammie, who put a rocket in the back of the net.

The tied game then began to get rough. The Falcon's got a two-minute penalty and seconds later a Zao player joined him in the penalty box.

Though the Falcon's were tired, they kept Zao at bay. However, they were unable to score and the game ended tied at 4. The tie gives them a 2-0-2 record so far this season.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Burns

Two Luke Falcons battle it out for the ball during soccer practice Tuesday at the base soccer field. The team practices Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Luke youths punt, pass, kick way to NFL game



Senior Airman Elizabeth Krichbaum

Kenneth Barnes prepares to pass during Saturdays NFL Gatorade Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

By Senior Airman J. Propst
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Almost 20 Luke children and youths participated in the local NFL Gatorade Punt, Pass and Kick competition Saturday at the youth center ballfield.

The competition measured the distance of the punts, passes and kicks of Luke youngsters, who competed for a chance to move on to the sectional competition Nov. 5 in Glendale.

The winners of the competition are:

Boys

- ♦ Jarrett Lockridge, ages 8 to 9 category
- ♦ Kenneth Barnes, ages 10 to 11 category
- ♦ Brian Bell, ages 12 to 13 category

Girls

- ♦ Ashley Michael, ages 12 to 13 category
- ♦ Jemia Fournier, ages 14 to 15 category

Children and teens who win the sectional compete in the national competition, which is during halftime of an American Football Conference playoff game.

"The competition was a big success," said Amy Heil, youth center staff. "Everyone was in a festive mood and cheering on all the participants."

The NFL Gatorade Punt, Pass and Kick competition was created to allow boys and girls ages 8 to 15 to compete against their peers in a lively engaging forum, according to the NFL Web site.

"The youth center put on a great activity," said Mary Schuch, mother of competitor Jason Schuch. "They (people who didn't attend) don't know what they missed. All of the kids had a good time."

Sports Shorts

Swimming lessons

Outdoor recreation accepts registrations for swimming lessons at the Litchfield Park Pool. Classes for children ages 6 months to 7 years are Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 2 to 18.

Additional classes for children ages 6 months to 16 years old are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 7 to

Nov. 11. Each class is 30 minutes long. Classes cost \$10 per child. For more information, call 856-6368 or 856-7120.

Aerobic center hours

The aerobic and Nautilus center at the health and wellness center is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 856-3247.

Fall sports

The entry deadline for fall sports,

including flag football and the over 30 basketball leagues, is Oct. 15. Teams must turn in a letter of intent to the fitness center. For more information on season schedules, call the fitness center at 856-6241.

Fun run

The fitness center offers small gifts for anyone who pre-registers for the Luke Sports Day 5K run Sept. 28. To pre-register, e-mail Paul Stone using the Luke global directory or call the fitness center at 856-3732.

Junior golf classes

Children and teens ages 5 to 17 can learn to golf Saturdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Falcon Dunes Golf Course. The cost is \$45. For more information, call 856-8355.

Day hike

Outdoor recreation sponsors a day hike at Bell Rock in Sedona Oct. 14. The \$20 cost includes round trip transportation, lunch, soft drinks and snacks. Register by Oct. 6. For more information, call 856-9334.

Luke’s softball ranks among nation’s best

USSSA welcomes women’s team to national competition

Upon their return from the Armed Forces tournament in Euliss, Texas, the Luke women’s varsity softball team recently found out they were ranked No. 1 by the U. S. Specialty Sports Association in the Armed Forces.

The association is an internationally recognized athletic association that supports world-class athletics.

Sept. 4 the Falcons competed in the USSSA Far West Nationals Tournament at Victory Lanes in Glendale and took second place.

“Second might not impress some, but the team had to beat us twice in the double-elimination tournament,” said pitcher Sharon De’Deaux. “Our accomplishment in the Far West Nationals and our ranking by USSSA earned us an invitation to the USSSA World Tournament. When we heard the news Monday, we were in shock.”

The tournament is Monday through Sept. 24 in Panama City, Fla.

“I never imagined that we would do as well as we have this year,” said Tara Mulvey, Luke outfielder.

Unlike other tournaments, a team must be invited to the world tourney.

“What a privilege and an honor to be invited to represent Luke Air Force Base at such a level of competition,” De’Deaux said. “The very first phrase



Airman 1st Class Delvin Barnes
Tara Mulvey and Jessica Barry run drills Tuesday during softball practice to improve their endurance.

we hear when we join the team is ‘We represent Luke Air Force Base.’”

De’Deaux said when she joined the team in March, the team was preparing for a local softball tournament. She said the team won third place in that tournament and they had not been playing together very long.

Since then, the Falcon women have played in two different leagues and seven major tournaments, traveling as far west as Las Vegas and as far east as Euliss.

The range of experience on the Luke team varies from players who recently

realized there was softball after high school and others who can celebrate a 20-year reunion with fellow softball players from around the world, De’Deaux said.

Since the Falcons were given the invitation, they have been trying to find ways to financially support their endeavors.

“Funding is quickly becoming our chief obstacle,” said Shelicia Greer, team manager and right centerfielder. “We have enough money left in our annual budget to pay our entry fee to the world and

USSSA has given us \$400 towards our quest. However, there may not be enough time to raise the rest of the funds we will need.”

Raising money is a high priority because it is a determining factor on the team’s participation.

“The team wants to go and show all the other teams from around the country the esprit de corps and dedication Team Luke has,” Greer said. “We also want to do our best to out glove every other team there.”

During every game, the Falcons give 110 percent, De’Deaux said.

The team has played ball at 2:40 a.m. on a Sunday and driven 16 hours with only one night’s decent rest to play softball for two days in 102-degree heat with 95-percent humidity. They do this because they love the game and are dedicated to their teammates, De’Deaux said.

“We realized early on that none of us can be independent of another, so we do whatever it takes on and off the field to support each another,” De’Deaux said. “Sometimes that means overlooking our own bruised bones, aches and pains to pick up another player.”

Part of that team effort is the way they start each game.

“Every game starts with two phrases, the first is a whisper from coach Jennifer Megehan — ‘Tami read the line up,’ — and the other a strong Texas voice from Tami Wise who calls out ‘Tara, right field; Shelicia, right center’ and so on down the line,” De’Deaux said.

(Courtesy of the Luke women’s varsity softball team)

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